

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret A. Grately, Director

(☒) Release (☒) Excise (☐) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: (☐) In Part (☒) In Full

(☐) Classify as (☐) Extend as (☐) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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7/19/78

INR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

No. 65, July 19, 1978

HA - ~~Victim American~~

SHUM. INR Week

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Box 4979

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LATIN AMERICA

Argentina

ICRC Makes Quiet Rights Progress. Embassy Buenos Aires considers that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is making a major humanitarian contribution in Argentina. The ICRC has reached an agreement with the Argentines that permits it full, private, and free access to political prisoners, along with the right to make repeat visits to prisons and aid prisoners' families. ICRC officials also believe that they have made a major breakthrough by gaining access to prisoners whose detention has not been acknowledged by the government. Embassy sources report that there are under 500 such prisoners in military camps. According to the Embassy, the ICRC's work will help to establish more accurately the number of "disappeareds." The ICRC plans to publish soon a list of 800 well-documented disappearance cases. [REDACTED] Buenos Aires 5384, July 13)

INR Comment. The ICRC's success in visiting 50 unregistered political prisoners in Cordoba is particularly noteworthy. The [REDACTED]

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army's Corps III, whose headquarters are in Cordoba, is commanded by General Luciano Menendez, a notorious hardliner on security questions. That the ICRC has been able to function in Menendez's bailiwick suggests a degree of internal government cooperation and coordination that often has been lacking in human rights/security matters in the past. [REDACTED]

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